

## Testimony in support of Full Funding for Renewable Energy in Senate Bill 1

My name is Joe Wasserman and I am a resident of a West Hartford. I am submitting testimony pertaining to Senate Bill 1 in support of full funding for renewable energy. The alternatives I outline below are stark. We **MUST** move ahead with renewable energy. We can do this by passing the part of Senate Bill 1 which calls for full funding and credits for solar energy.

If we continue to depend upon fossil fuels ie oil and coal, we are condemning future generations to the catastrophe of global warming. Make no mistake about it, the polar caps are melting and this is leading to higher sea levels. Make no mistake about it, ice caps on the major mountain ranges are receding and this endangers future water supplies in India, China, Peru and other nations. If methane gas is released, in large quantities from the world's ocean and tundra, as a result of global warming, climate change will be greatly accelerated and this will bring us to a point of where our ability to turn things around will be greatly, if not totally, diminished. Oil spills like the recent BP disaster and mountain top removal threaten the very ecological balance upon which our lives depend upon.

With the nuclear power option, we see the dangers that await us as we follow the recent events in Japan. We still do not have a way to deal with the waste of nuclear power plants generate. There is strong evidence of higher rates of certain types of cancers around nuclear power plants, such as Millstone. These facilities are vulnerable to terrorist attacks. They leak radioactivity into our environment and habitat. Is this the legacy we want to leave for our children and grand children?

There is a way out. We need to invest in renewable energy **NOW**, before it is too late. Connecticut needs to get in front now, so as to position itself to attract the green jobs of the future. Without this investment in renewable energy, particularly solar, our state loses out and we lose valuable time in dealing with climate change and continue to be dependent on polluting energy sources that destroy the habitat upon which our lives depend.

To not invest in renewable energy is indeed the most costly option. It is like not wanting to spray water on a out of control fire due to concern about the water bill. We should be concerned about the enormous cost of not investing in solar energy and other forms of renewable clean energy. We can make this investment through tax credits and through public investment. A progressive tax on the wealthy, who just received a massive tax break at the federal level, will help us make this necessary investment in our future.

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